

**CLAIMS LISTING:**

1. (cancelled).

2. (original) An electro-surgical apparatus, comprising:

an electrode with a cutting edge; and

a housing coupled to the electrode and including a top with a top proximal section and a bottom with a bottom proximal section, the top proximal section having a geometry that facilitates creation of a skin flap with a substantially uniform thickness that includes a skin layer and an adjacent layer of subcutaneous tissue, the bottom proximal section having a geometry that preserves a plane of tissue that is positioned adjacent to the adjacent layer of subcutaneous tissue;

a guide coupled to the housing and configured to smoothly advance the housing over tissue; and

wherein the electrode is positioned distally to the housing to cut or dissect through tissue to produce a selected plane of dissection within or between one or more tissue layers.

3. (original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the housing includes a gap between the top proximal section and the bottom proximal section.

4. (original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the housing includes a chamber that facilitates creation of the skin flap.

5. – 13. (cancelled).

14. (original) The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising:  
an insulator coupled to at least a portion of the electrode.

15. –35. (cancelled).